

Application Serial No. 10/021,393
Reply to Office Action of February 17, 2005

PATENT
Docket: CU-2701

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated February 17, 2005, the Examiner states that Claims 1-8 are pending, Claims 1-6 are rejected and Claims 7 and 8 are allowed. By the present Amendment, Applicants amend the claims.

The rejected Claims 1-6 have been cancelled, while the allowed Claims 7 and 8 have been maintained.

In the Office Action, the Examiner presents a statement of the reasons for allowance of Claims 7 and 8. The Applicants mostly agree with the statement, but would like to clarify the statement as follows:

"The prior art of record, for example, Raphael (US Patent 5,383,574), does disclose the limitations of claim 7 such as a device for providing a solution which leads a solution from any one of sources of supply (items 14 and 18) to an applying device via a predetermined flow path (see, for example, Figure 1), comprising a single middle tank (item 40) which is provided on the way of the flow path connecting each of the sources of supply and the applying device for each of the sources of supply, a sensor (items 98, 99, 100, and 101) which detects whether an amount of a solution stored in ~~each~~ the middle tank is not less than a predetermined lower limit value or not and outputs a signal in association with detection result (see, for example, column 4, line 7 to column 8, line 10), and a controlling device (item 120) which discriminates whether the amount of solution stored in the middle tank is not less than the lower limit value or not on the basis of the output signal from the sensor and performs the predetermined processing in association with switching of the sources of supply when it is decided that the amount of the solution stored in the middle tank is less than the lower limit value (see, for example, column 5, line 49 to column 6, line 27)..."

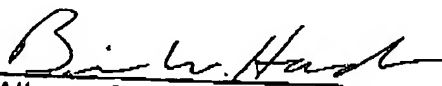
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In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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